# THE BLAST

LYDIA GIBSON

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THE MASK OF PATRIOTISM

Материал, защищенный авторским правом

# Villa or Wilson—Which Is the Bandit?

## VILLA

PANCHO VILLA is the descendant of a long line of peons whose lives were spent in hard toil, cultivating the soil of Mexico and helping to produce foodstuffs for their fellow countrymen and profits for their exploiters.

Villa followed the same calling. His childhood was dark and dreary. The son of a peon, he passed his early youth in hard farm work, helping to support his family. The hand of greed lay heavy upon the people of Mexico. The hardest toil barely sufficed to keep the Villa family alive.

As a young man, Pancho saw an opportunity to improve his condition by securing work in a neighboring town. He took his widowed mother and younger children with him, he the chief support of the family. It was a garrison town, and one day Pancho learned that his oldest sister, a beautiful girl of 15, was seduced by an army officer. Pancho set out to find the man. He demanded that he make amends. The officer scorned the low peon, and young Villa shot and killed him.

The authorities ordered the arrest of Villa. Pancho knew that he, a despised peon, could expect no justice at the hands of the masters. He fled to the mountains. The government set a price on his head and declared him an outlaw.

But the townspeople knew Villa and the story of his wrongs. They admired him for challenging the right of an officer to violate the daughter of a peon. They aided Pancho and by their help he was able to avoid arrest. He gathered around him a circle of other peons embittered by the injustice and oppression they suffered. From time to time they made excursions to neighboring estates, expropriating rich land sharks and sharing the spoils of victory with the needy peons. He was an outlaw, but the people loved him and blessed his name.

When the Revolution broke out, Villa joined forces with the peons fighting for a chance to live, for a little land and liberty. He has kept up the fight against tremendous odds. Nor has Wall Street been able to corrupt him and buy him off, as they did with Carranza.

## WILSON

Unlike Villa and his hard-working progenitors, Wilson comes from a long line of exploiters. His forefathers did neither spin nor sow. Yet, they always enjoyed the good things of life, parasites on the back of labor. Wilson himself, unlike Villa, has never tilled the ground nor worked in mine or factory. He has not helped in any productive or otherwise useful work. On the contrary, as teacher and college professor, he used every effort to poison the young minds with the dogmas and dominant views that support present institutions and make more secure the bondage of the people. As President, he has proved himself a menace to the welfare and peace of the country, a weather cock constantly swayed by the breezes from Wall Street. A puppet of the money magnates, his attitude on important issues has been dictated by Big Business. Preaching peace and sanity a few months ago, he has suddenly veered into the camp of mad militarism. The compelling hand of the munition and steel trust is dictating his policies. And now he cries loudest for the biggest navy of the world. The priests of Mammon got him, body and soul.

At this very moment Wilson is preparing to invade Mexico—poor, bleeding Mexico, for years torn by inner strife and weakened by the long struggle. He has ordered a "punitive expedition" against Villa. It is no secret that back of this outcry for the punishment of Villa are the American political and commercial pirates eager for the invasion of Mexico in the holy name of greater profits.

Villa killed a Mexican officer to avenge the ruin of his sister. Wilson is preparing to kill thousands of Mexicans on the pretext of avenging the death of some Americans. Which is the greater bandit—Villa or Wilson?

There is only this difference between them: Villa had the courage to do his own vengeance, taking the risks and profiting nothing himself.

Wilson sits safely in the White House and orders others to do the dirty work.

# Labor Preparedness

PREPAREDNESS is surely a worthy aim. But you can't prepare unless you know what you are preparing for, or against what. To serve its purpose and to be effective, preparedness must have some definite object.

What, then, are the workers to prepare for? Military preparedness is either for the defense of your own country, or for attack upon another country, or for both purposes. What do we want to attack? Have the workers of America an interest in attacking some foreign country? No sane man will claim that they have. We can therefore dismiss this phase of the subject.

There remains preparedness for defense. It is important to know clearly just *what* the workers of this country are expected to defend. Supposedly they are to defend "the country". But what is "the country"? It consists of vast acres of land, rich natural deposits in gold mines, coal, silver and copper mines; great wealth representing accumulated products of toil, big industries, railroads, real estate values, etc. All this the workers are asked to defend. But do they own the broad acres, the gold, coal and silver mines, the railroads, the great industrial establishments, the mills and factories, or the other accumulated wealth of the Nation? They do not. What, then, is Labor to defend?

For years the workers have been involved in a struggle with the masters of the country—the possessors of all this wealth—to wrench from their grasp a greater

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share for the producers. Are the toilers suddenly to abandon their long struggle and rush to the rescue of their despoilers when their profits in some foreign market are threatened?

It is an encouraging sign of intelligence that the workers are awakening to the hard facts of the situation. The patriots for revenue—known in the East as the National Security League, and in the West as the Pacific Coast Defense League—have failed to enthuse the unions for the defense of the masters' wealth and country. Thus, the Butchers' Union of San Francisco, as well as the Riggers and Stevedores and other labor bodies, have declined to play the fly on the Bosses' book. They have condemned the attempt to enlist union men in the militia. Some Labor organizations in the East and in the Middle West have even gone further. They are considering a plan of *Labor preparedness:* to prepare the workers against their real and only enemy: the capitalist vampire that lives on their blood and marrow; to prepare to defend Labor against the constantly growing rapacity and greed of the employer; to prepare to free Labor entirely from the bond of wage slavery.

*That* is the Preparedness this country needs, that Labor needs. The first step toward it is a country-wide organization of the Labor sentiment against militarism that is to increase the legal violence at the command of the bosses. We urge labor unions to take this step at once: to send anti-militarist speakers to every union in the country and to flood the land with anti-militarist leaflets.

That's to begin with. The next step is for Labor to take charge of the industries, abolish manufacture for profit, and establish an industrial democracy based on the full enjoyment of life for every person in return for useful effort.

This is the Preparedness that Labor needs. Preparedness to become truly human, self-respecting and independent men and women, who know their worth, the purpose of life, and the power of Labor united in solidarity.

This is the right kind of Labor Preparedness. This and nothing else.

# The Rabbits and the Goats

**Charles Erskine Scott Wood**

II.

THE white rabbits and the grey rabbits increased so rapidly that presently there were many more rabbits than were needed to cut the clover, and in the struggle to get jobs the rabbits consented to take less and less clover for their work. Then the different unions passed laws that only so many rabbits would be allowed to learn the trade of their fathers, and all others must either find another trade and another union or join the "Scabs." But this did not help any. It increased the scabs and made trouble all along the line. And the rabbits continued to increase and the clover wages to decrease in nourishing power. Finally it was unbearable—rabbits, rabbits everywhere and no jobs. Then a very fat and meditative white rabbit called a meeting of all the rabbits, grey and white, and addressed them:

"Fellow rabbits, ladies and gentlemen: The trouble is there are too many rabbits for the job of cutting our masters' clover. We have agreed that to dispute our masters' right is visionary and unprofitable; therefore, the only other course is to reduce the number of rabbits. We can do this either by killing the young as they are born—"

At this loud squeals of horror went up from the mother rabbits. "Nevertheless, this is a practice," continued the orator, "which is sanctioned in some communities. But I suggest that a better plan is to take steps by some harmless method to prevent conception by the—"

"What steps?" interrupted a very thin, worn rabbit, the mother already of thirty-eight children.

"That I cannot say," replied the orator. "I am only announcing a theory."

"But," retorted the sad thin mother, "it is a condition, not a theory, that confronts us."

"I know," said the orator, "it is a very serious condition, but I am not a medical man. Now, there is the Welsh Rabbit, who is a doctor and conjurer. Let us hear from him."

The Welsh Rabbit coughed and began: "Multiplication is—"

"We don't want anything about arithmetic," interrupted the sad mother. "We—"

"I was not talking arithmetic," said the Welsh Rabbit. "I was talking Birth Control, and I was about to say when interrupted that multiplication is a mere blind instinct of nature. The clover has thousands of seeds. The rabbit numerous young. Each would be better if fewer. And we have as much right to regulate one as the other. The rabbit intellect was given to control Nature, not to be a slave to Nature's blindness."

"But how? How?" cried the mother almost weeping.

"Yes, how? How?" said many voices.

"I will tell you," replied Dr. Welsh Rabbit.

But at this moment a huge crow flew down and said: "The Man on the Hill has heard you and he says your talk is wicked. You must not in any way try to control Nature. And as rabbits breed like rabbits, you must let them forever breed like rabbits."

And a great many said loudly, "Yes, we must listen to the crow. He knows the will of the Man on the Hill. The crow is his messenger."

Just then the foxes rushed in and scattered the crowd and ate the Welsh Rabbit and the orator, because they were blasphemous and obscene and were trying to limit

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the labor market. The rest of the crowd said: "We have been very wicked to refuse to increase and multiply as the Man on the Hill has ordered. And we have been very obscene to try to lessen the labor supply for our lords, the goats. Let us go out on the squat for more clover and shorter hours. All else is vision and useless."

"Who shall go out on squat?" asked a one-eyed old white rabbit. Then it was voted that the one-eyed rabbits should squat. And they did so, and all the others went back to work and cut the clover for the goats, while the one-eyed squatted and starved and the scabs rushed in and the goats, the foxes and the crows loafed in the shade and laughed.

The foxes whispered to the crows: "Your idea about the Man on the Hill was a good stunt. Very clever!" and they all laughed some more. But the dear, soft, gentle rabbits met under the moonlight and Resolved, that the rabbits did not receive their full share of the product of their toil. Then all went home to bed so as to be up early for their work in the morning.

# The Labor Market

**T. H. Potter**

THE monopolist said: "If we can only cut the workingman off from the land, we can then employ him at our own price.

And they did so.

Then they said: "If we can get his young son to work for us, the increased amount of labor on the market will enable us to get the two for about the price of one."

And they did so.

Then they said: "Now for his little girl; all three will only earn what the father did at one time."

And they did so.

And then they said: "Now reach for the mother." "But she has to take care of the baby." "Oh, we will pay one woman to take charge of twenty babies and scoop the nineteen."

And they did so.

Then they said:: "We won't pay that one woman. Appeal to the public—'tis so charitable."

And they are doing so.

Then the foxy one lay awake nights to think of something the babies could work at, that he might coin a few pennies off the kids.

Make the Nursery self-supporting. You know it would be "so independent."

And they will do it.

# A Rare Nugget

THE welfare of the aggregate, considered apart from that of the units, is not an end to be sought. Society exists for the benefit of its members; not its members for the benefit of society. It has ever to be remembered that, great as may be the efforts made for the prosperity of the body politic, yet the claims of the body politic are nothing in themselves and become something only in so far as they embody the claims of its competent individuals.

—HERBERT SPENCER

DO not waste your time on Social Questions. What is the matter with the poor is Poverty; what is the matter with the rich is Uselessness.

# Brave Voices From Prison

A MASSMEETING was held in San Francisco March 8th, in behalf of Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magon, now in the Los Angeles Jail. Our imprisoned comrades sent the following letter, to be read at the meeting. Unfortunately, it did not arrive in time. We urge our friends everywhere to take immediate action in this case.

Greetings, Comrades!

We have just learned of the massmeeting to take place in San Francisco to protest against the persecution to which the government is subjecting *Regeneracion* and ourselves, its writers.

We wish with all our hearts that we could be present with you at that meeting, but since it is impossible for us to be there in person, our thoughts will be with you instead. We heartily appreciate the solidarity of our brothers in San Francisco, to whom we send our fraternal sympathy and greetings.

Since February 18th we have been imprisoned and subjected to most brutal treatment. When we were arrested such violence was used by the minions that for awhile it looked as if they were intent upon assassinating us. Enrique was the victim of such a ferocious assault by one of the sleuths that he is still suffering from his wounds.

By the United States Marshal's orders, or rather by orders of the bandits of Wall Street, we are being kept in the strictest incommunicado. We are not allowed to see our friends, and even the members of our own families are barred from visiting us.

Our bonds have been set at $5000.00 each. As we are poor, this high bail is designed to keep us in jail until our case goes to trial. And meanwhile we are subject to the despotism of the Marshal, who inflicts punishment even before any judge imposes sentence.

Our crime? Our refusal to accept the authority of any Gods in heaven or on earth. "Neither God nor Master!" is our motto.

That is the doctrine we are teaching the Mexicans through *Regeneracion*. What the tyrants cannot forgive us is that we have advised our people—the Mexicans—to put this doctrine into practice, so as to build up a new social life in keeping with Justice and Freedom; a new system that will make it impossible for any man to profit by the sweat and misery of his fellowmen and that will not permit any one to climb on the backs of others by authority and obedience.

This is our crime. The government is trying to prevent us from continuing to commit this crime by locking up our voices in the dungeon. The proceedings of the Russian autocracy transplanted to free America! This is the boasted Democracy under whose cloak beats the heart of Torquemada. The Inquisition is not dead; we are living now in the Middle Age!

But let us not give ourselves up to sorrow. Courage, good comrades! The enemy stands unmasked. The government is proving by its own actions that Authority is not the alleged Guardian Angel of the weak to protect them against the aggressions of the strong. It proves itself to be the brutal hand that keeps us prostrate at the feet of our exploiters, so as to enable them with more ease and safety to press our brains and our blood into more profits.

Let us rejoice at this self-exposure of government. Tyranny holds its own undoing. The scorpion kills itself with its own poison.

From the depth of our dungeon we send our fraternal greetings to our brothers and comrades everywhere, upon whom we call to join in our cry, "Long live freedom of thought! More energy in the struggle for Land and Liberty!"

RICARDO FLORES MAGON,
ENRIQUE FLORES MAGON.

County Jail, Los Angeles, Cal., March 7th, 1916.

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# THE BLAST

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## Comments

### Murder for Profit

THE Columbus (N. M.) incident, in which Villa men are supposed to have killed some Americans, is to be used as an excuse to invade Mexico. But suppose that some Canadian bandits had attacked a border camp and killed some Americans. Would Washington think of invading Canada?

Don't imagine for a moment that Wilson has ordered a military expedition into Mexico because he is so terribly outraged over the killing of Americans. Americans—American workers—are murdered every day in this country, and Wilson remains quite calm about it. Where was Wilson's indignation when unarmed strikers were shot down in East Youngstown? Did Washington send a military expedition to punish the murderers of the women and children in the tents of Ludlow, in Roosevelt, N. J., in McKees Rocks, in the Michigan Copper district? Did the Federal authorities or any State government *ever* send a punitive expedition to avenge the wholesale slaughter of workingmen, their wives and children in our own country?

Verily, Government, thy name is hypocrite and murderer. Wilson, as President, is forced to be the whore for American speculators with large interests in Mexico. For years they have been clamoring for the suppression of the Mexican revolution because it is interfering with the business of squeezing profits from the blood of the peon. Now they are jubilant. American bullets will soon restore "order" in Mexico, drive the peons back to work and secure the speculators in the undisputed possession of the land and natural resources they have stolen from the Mexican people. Let us hope they are reckoning without the host.

### The Mask of Patriotism

INCIDENTALLY the "punishing of Villa" is to serve as an additional "argument" for a greater army. The jingo press is doing its best to inflame the mob with the spirit of revenge against Mexico, on the one hand, and the menace of a "foreign invasion" on the other. And the good citizen readily falls for these hypocritical vaporings. Made stupid by his educators, he fails to see the mask of "patriotism" and "national defense" hiding the smirk of the fat land grabber, the munition and steel trust, the monopolist and manufacturer.

Systematically the public heart and mind are thus corrupted by the prostitute press, by our college professors, preachers and school teachers. The very youth of the country is being poisoned with the virus of national hatreds and racial antagonisms, and moulded into murderous tools in the name of a meaningless rag and a country owned by Rockefeller, Morgan & Co.

### Menace to Labor

IN THIS insane preparation to turn the Republic into an armed camp, where are the forces to stem the tide of militarism? What are the radicals doing? And what is labor doing? For, after all, it is the workers that will ultimately be the chief victims of these imperialistic tendencies. Victims in a double sense. First, because labor will have to foot the bills for the enlarged militarism and navyism; labor which is the source of all wealth. And secondly, the military Frankenstein now being called into life will serve to crush rebellious workers whenever they demand better conditions and a greater share of their product.

It is therefore sickening to witness the apathy and indifference of the toilers to the preparedness that is ultimately designed to crush every aspiration of labor. Here and there a more intelligent union is awakening to the real meaning and purpose of a stronger army and navy. But the great bulk of organized labor is busy with stupid jurisdictional fights among themselves or wasting valuable time and energy in chasing ephemeral "labor laws" and growing enthusiastic over "reforms" of evils that are inherent in the very system of wage slavery. And all the while the bonds of subjection are being drawn tighter around the toilers.

### Honest Idiocy

ANDREW FURUSETH, president of the International Seamen's Union, is no doubt an honest and sincere man. He is also supposed to be an able man. He is the author of the La Follette Seamen's Act. What wonderful things were promised the poor seamen if Congress could only be induced to make it a law. It would incalculably raise the standard of the seaman as man and worker; it would emancipate him from the autocracy of the ship masters; it would make him an independent and self respecting human being, a free man.

Well, Furuseth spent the better part of his life in convincing Congress that it would be a good thing to have this law. Incidentally also, thousands of dollars were spent from the funds of the union. At last the La Follette Seamen's Act became a law. And now comes Furuseth and complains that the law doesn't do the seamen any good at all. Why so, Andrew? Well, "this law is not being enforced," he says, "because the shipping interests have too much influence in Washington, and it is impossible to enforce the law."

It took our able Furuseth about twenty years to put

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this law on the statute books and now he admits that it is impossible to enforce it. You poor simpleton! Did you really expect the ship magnates to enforce laws against their own interests? Have you lived fifty odd years and not found out that it is only the working boob who believes in enforcing laws against his own interests? Capitalists don't do that. Nor does the government, which is always the loyal servant of the capitalist.

It is men like Furuseth—honest and sincere idiots—who are the worst enemies of labor. They mislead the workers into believing that there is hope of bettering their condition by appealing to the lawmakers, instead of relying upon the invincible strength of their own economic power, backed by solidarity.

# Wendell Phillips on Sabotage

TO ME, the Labor Movement means just this: It is the last noble protest of the American people against the power of incorporate wealth, seeking to do over again what the Whig Aristocracy of Great Britain has successfully done for 200 years. * * * We could discuss as well as you if you would only give us bread and houses, fair play and leisure, and opportunities to travel. We would sit and discuss the question for the next fifty years. It's a very easy thing to discuss for a gentleman in his study, with no anxiety about tomorrow. Why, the ladies and gentlemen of the reign of Louis XV and Louis XVI, in France, seated in gilded saloons and on Persian carpets, surrounded with luxury and the curious manufacture of ingenious Lyons and Rheims, discussed fine ideas and balanced them in dainty phrases, and expressed them in such quaint generalities that Thomas Jefferson borrowed the Declaration of Independence from their hands.

There they sat balancing and discussing sweetly, making out new theories and daily creating a splendid architecture of debates, till the angry crowd broke open the doors and ended the discussion in blood. They waited too long: they discussed about half a century too long. You see, discussion is very good when a man has bread to eat, and his children all portioned off and his daughters married and his house furnished and paid for, and his will made; but discussion is very bad when "Ye hear the children weeping, O my brothers, ere the sorrows come with years."

Discussion is bad when a class bends under actual oppression. *We want immediate action.* I know labor is narrow; I know she is aggressive; I know she arms herself with the best weapons that a corrupt civilization furnishes—all true. Where do we get these ideas? Borrowed them from capital, every one of them; and when you advance to the level of peace unarmed, we will meet you on the same. While you combine and plot and defend, so will we. * * * Labor comes up and says, "They have shotted their cannon to the lips; they have adopted every new method; they have invented every dangerous machine—and it is all planted like a great park of artillery against us. They have incorporate wealth; they have hidden behind banks; they have concealed themselves in currency; they have sheltered themselves in taxation; they have passed rules to govern us—and we will improve upon the lesson they have taught us. When they disarm, we will—not before. We will crumble up wealth by making it unprofitable to be rich.

## PRISON MEMOIRS OF AN ANARCHIST

**By Alexander Berkman**

"One will search far before finding a more powerful picture of what deeds are perpetrated in the name of justice."

—San Francisco "Bulletin."

512 pages, illustrated. $1.15 postpaid.

# To Our Friends

**THE BLAST did not appear last week. Reason: lack of funds. It is not pleasant to repeat our call for aid. But if you think we need a revolutionary labor paper like THE BLAST, help to keep it alive. Every issue of THE BLAST costs $75.00. Our own resources are exhausted. We urge our friends to take action. Help us to get subscribers and readers. Talk the matter over with other comrades in your city and arrange a benefit for THE BLAST. Secure contributions to the Sustaining Fund. The need is urgent. Act at once if you want this paper to live.**

**THE BLASTERS.**

# Birth Control Propaganda

ONLY a few years ago the idea of Birth Control agitation was ridiculed even by most radicals. It wasn't necessary, they said; the time wasn't ripe for it, and it was forbidden by law, anyhow.

Today the subject of Birth Control is gaining ever wider recognition. Agitation in this matter has become an important factor in the labor movement; even the most timid radical now realizes the significance of this propaganda.

I do not share the view of some enthusiasts that Birth Control will make war impossible, solve the labor problem and liberate man and woman from bondage. It will do nothing of the kind; it will not solve any social problems. But it is bound to prove a vital factor in their solution.

Whether Birth Control is advisable or not, may be a debatable question. But the right to discuss it is not debatable. Discussion of every problem must be free, for only through such discussion can we ever arrive at a satisfactory, wholesome solution. In other words, I demand absolute free speech and absolute free press upon any subject that I am interested to discuss. If there are laws that prohibit such freedom, the worse for the laws.

This is the attitude taken by Margaret Sanger and Emma Goldman, as well as by many other progressive thinkers of America. Of course, the United States is the only semi-civilized country that has laws prohibiting the discussion of vital problems. But even in this benighted land we are making progress. A proof of it is to be found in the Federal authorities dismissing the eight charges against Margaret Sanger. The action of the government was due to its realization that the sentiment in favor of the free discussion of sex and family problems has grown in this country to an extent that makes existing laws against it inoperative. And by the way, that is the history of every law. It is operative only to the extent to which the people are willing to obey it.

But though the Federal government dismissed the case against Margaret Sanger, the New York authorities—more "moral" and evidently also denser than the Federal officers—have arrested Emma Goldman for advocating Birth Control.

The monster massmeeting recently held in Carnegie Hall, New York, in the matter of the arrest of Emma Goldman leaves no doubt as to the sentiments of the people of New York in this question. On March 10th a similar massmeeting took place in San Francisco. The keynote of the large assembly was the demand of absolute freedom of speech and press in discussing this vital subject, and the determination to nullify the law by supplying information concerning *Prevention of Conception* to those needing the same. Nor was this sentiment merely one of promise. It was proven an actual fact by the free distribution at the meeting of a special leaflet printed for the occasion giving the best preventives for women and men. The eagerness with which the large audience demanded copies of the leaflet was proof of its necessity, as well as of the changed sentiment.

To emphasize its sympathy with Birth Control agitation, the audience contributed toward a Fund to print a large quantity of

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these leaflets for house to house distribution in the city. Copies and bundles of these leaflets can be obtained free of charge at the Friday evening meetings of the Current Events Club, Averill Hall, 1260 Market Street, San Francisco; also through the office of THE BLAST.

The enthusiastic meeting closed with the unanimous decision to wire a telegram of protest to the authorities of New York.

STATEMENT OF BIRTH CONTROL MEETING—March 10, 1916.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Collection Birth Control Meeting | | $53.65 |
| Collection Current Events Club, March 3 | | 3.95 |
| | | $57.60 |
| Expenses— | | |
| Throwaways | $11.00 | |
| Stamps and envelopes | 3.00 | |
| Hall rent | 2.00 | |
| Telegram, New York | 1.00 | |
| 5000 "Preventives" Leaflet | 9.50 | |
| | | 26.50 |
| Balance on hand | | $31.10 |

## Pernicious Tendencies

"THE pernicious tendency" of discontent is not a new discovery. A Roman tribune, L. Marcius Philippus, B. C. 104, stated that in the vast Roman Empire there were not 2,000 citizens who possessed any property. Cicero subsequently reproduced the statement to discourse on "the pernicious tendency of such talk," and that it leads toward schemes for the equalization of property; and, what greater mischief, he asks, can there be than this? The Roman republic fell from its own rottenness, and though its fall was slow and prolonged, we can draw no satisfaction from that fact.

Freedom was not then an inalienable inheritance as it is now assumed to be. Concentration of wealth now, as then, leads to prodigality and vice, but increased intelligence and freedom will not submit to the fate the spiritless Romans exhibited. Our plebeians stand in no awe of our patricians, nor will they be cajoled by them. American optimates may prate of "the pernicious tendency" of a knowledge of facts, but it will be in vain; the American populace, having tested freedom, will resist its restriction. They are quick to learn, and the object lessons of military drills and police brutality will not be lost if a modern Spartacus makes his camp in New York, Chicago or San Francisco.

## Extract from a Private Letter

I HAVE often been asked if I believe in force. I reply it is a natural law. The most timid animals fight in defense of their natural rights. We are repeatedly told that resistance to tyrants is obedience to God, and that he who dares be free, himself must strike the blow. I do not claim to be like the cowardly cur who licks the foot that kicks it. Therefore I do believe that force should be resisted with force. But, no matter what I believe, it always will be. There is a strong sense of right and justice among all peoples throughout the world, which will eventually become crystallised, perhaps in the near future—who knows? When this happens they will ask what manner of men could they have been that allowed their best friends and unflinching champions to be hunted down and put to death, like wolves, by the merciless power of money.

## Knights of the Double Cross

ANOTHER man of God, the Rev. Chas. E. Eaton, Rockefeller's pastor of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York, has resigned to take up the cause of Preparedness.

The business of saving souls will be laid aside for a while in order that the business of killing may be given a boost.

Being a pious gentleman, the pastor is loath to call a spade a spade. Preparing to shoot people whom we have neither known nor seen nor have any quarrel with, he refers to as the "new Americanism, the new era of Christianity which must inevitably follow the European war." Slippery John, who has doubled the price of gasoline lately, could not express himself with more circumspection.

John D. himself is not making many speeches these days; he is too busy trying to earn an honest penny between prayers.

It will be noted that among other arrivals in Camp Preparedness are Mr. Vanderbilt and the Rev. Father Vaughn, whose special mission of a few years ago as annihilator of Socialism resulted entirely satisfactory to himself.

The tenacity of our "reverend" barnacles in attaching themselves to wealth is truly marvellous.

## Sherman Was Wrong

Emanuel Julius

AN Amsterdam dispatch says the profits of the Krupp Steel Company during 1915 amounted to 86,000,000 marks ($21,500,000), against 33,000,000 marks ($7,500,000), the preceding year, and that a dividend of 12 per cent was distributed. Sherman was wrong. War isn't hell—for some capitalistic plunderbunders. It's profitable. Patriotism pays.

## Labor Omnia Vincit

THIS is Latin for "Labor conquers all." We say it in Latin because it isn't true in English. Labor has never conquered a right to its own productions.

## E Pluribus Unum

THIS is Latin for "From many, one." It is the motto of this great republic. Originally this republic was a lot of sovereign States, just like a lot of trade unions which are sovereign in themselves. Then they made a confederation, but it wouldn't work; it was too loose-jointed. Too many sovereign States. Then they made this republic. In other words, all the little unions became one great union. We would like to see organized labor adopt the principle of this motto, an absolute solid one, from many.

WHAT is a capitalist?
One who has a capital time.
What is capital?
Stored-up labor.
How does the capitalist get the capital?
Labor hands it to him.

COME on, Mike, let's go to work.
I ain't working today. My union has ordered a strike.
Is that so? What for?
Ten cents a day increase.

Well, I wish you luck. The rest of us will go to work so we can pay our assessments and help you out. Ain't the bosses stupid? They don't see that it is their money that supports the strike.

That's so. There's nothing so stupid as a boss.

You know when the miners was on a strike in Colorado, the fellows in Wyoming and everywhere else kept on working and sent in assessments.

Yes, and coal. Ain't the bosses stupid?

Материал, защищенный авторским правом

# Correspondence

St. Louis, Mo., March 8, 1916.

Dear Comrades of The Blast:

I am enclosing Money Order for $25.50 derived from the entertainment given in this city for the benefit of The Blast.

After working hard for weeks to make this affair a success, this is all we realized. Talk about revolution, when the working class is so much behind the times. Here are the saloons and picture shows doing a flourishing business, while giving in return poisoned minds and bodies. And on the other hand there is a paper that is trying to develop minds and bodies, and yet so few come to its assistance. Unfortunately, this affair took place during the "Crone sensation." Many "sympathizers," who otherwise would have come, failed to show up. * * * While this affair was not much financially, we consider it a great moral success. For a long time we couldn't get the rebels of St. Louis together, in spite of all our efforts. And here at last we were again, the selected few, sitting all at one table.

Comrade J. M. Bluestone, who acted as toastmaster, after a very appropriate talk, opened the floor for discussion. Almost everyone had something to say for The Blast. There was old man Robinson (old in age, but young in spirit), followed by Nelson, Varney, McGrove, Schneider and many others, all enthusiastically agreeing that The Blast is the best revolutionary weekly we have at present in this country. The discussion, as usual, developed various suggestions how to help The Blast in its financial struggle. Some were in favor of giving a picnic on a larger scale early this summer for the benefit of The Blast. It is now under consideration. After recitations by the able rebel Gold, the crowd had what is called a "good time" until after midnight, when all went home, some happy and some "very happy." Fraternally yours,

2732 Dayton St. —Max Cohen

Chicago, March 7, 1916.

Comrades: When I received the last issue of The Blast (No. 8) I noticed the statement that *The Alarm* had been suppressed. I wish to inform you that such a thing did not happen, and I ask you to correct the error in your next issue. Fraternally yours,

—Theo. Appel

(It gives me great pleasure to make this correction. Suppression of Anarchist publications is such a common occurrence that I naturally credited the report I received, especially because the March issue of *The Alarm*, long overdue, did not reach me until today.—Ed.)

• • •

WHAT is a "martyr"?

A martyr is a savior who lost out.

What is an "Agitator"?

An Agitator is a fellow who cannot make a living.

What is a "Leader"?

A "Leader" is a fellow who can make a living.

What is a Dangerous Citizen?

One who thinks.

What is a Respectable Citizen?

A suit of clothes.

WHAT does Labor get out of War?

A job.

What job?

Making munitions.

What for?

To kill laborers.

Hurrah!

• • •

COMPETITION is the first Law of Trade.

Competition for Trade is the first Law of War.

• • •

OUR good friend, *Organized Labor*, says that the good hunter aims only at what is in sight.

But suppose he mistakes a fly on his gun barrel for an eagle, and doesn't see the bull moose beyond?

Poor Vision.

And what is in sight? What is in sight, for instance, for Caplan, Schmidt, John and Jim McNamara, Quinlan, Lawson, Ford and Suhr, Rangel and Cline, etc.?

And we wonder, what is in sight now for Joe Hillstrom.

What is in sight for those who dare death—for Labor's sake?

We know what is in sight for them from the exploiting overlords, but what has Labor in sight for them?

Is it to be forever Apology, Repudiation?

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### MEETINGS AND LECTURES

Under this heading announcements will be made free of charge to Labor and Radical Organizations.

CURRENT EVENTS CLUB meets every Friday, 8 p. m., at Averill Hall, 1256 Market, opposite City Hall. No lecturing. Discussion of important events of the week. Musical selections. Admission free.

WALTER HOLLOWAY, Rationalist, Phelan Building, Sundays, 8 p. m.

OPEN FORUM, every Thursday evening, Averill Hall. Free discussion.

AUSTIN LEWIS lectures at 3345 Seventeenth street, Sunday evening, March 19, on "The French Commune."

WILFRED DENNIS will talk on "Primal Instincts"—a resume of the Mexican Indians' Battle for Freedom. Sunday evening, March 26. Solidarity Club, 3345 Seventeenth street.

THE REDS of San Francisco will celebrate the first of May with a SOCIAL and DANCE at La Boheme Hall, 1520 Ellis street, Sunday, April 30, 8 p. m. (eve of first of May). Admission 15 cents.

LOS ANGELES, ATTENTION! An International Group has been formed to spread revolutionary ideas among the workers. We ask all interested to join in our efforts. For further information, address the Secretary, E. Rabinovich, 2819 Folsom St., Los Angeles.

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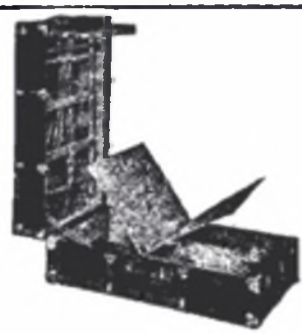
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